

ENGLISH

# Finding your

*steps for*

*High School Students*

*Community College Students*

*College Students*

*Career Changers*

*Foreign Degree Holders*

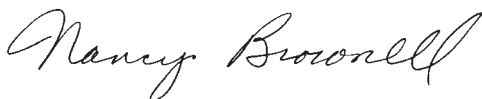
# Pathway to Teaching

## DEAR FUTURE TEACHERS:

On behalf of the thousands of California teachers, we invite you to join our profession. Teaching children and adolescents opens their hearts and minds to learning, challenges and nurtures your intellect, strengthens our democracy and helps determine the future. As you contemplate your own future, give teaching serious consideration.

This brochure is intended for multiple audiences, at various stages of experience and interest, who are contemplating the challenging and rewarding career of a teacher. There is much that you can accomplish. The important work of teaching future generations requires great energy, determination, creativity and commitment. If you enjoy children and adolescents, if you care about public education, then find out what's next for you. Make the difference of a lifetime. Teach.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Brownell". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Nancy Sady Brownell  
Director, CalTeach  
CSU, Institute for Education Reform



**Make the difference of a lifetime. Teach.**

# Steps to Becoming a Teacher

## High School Student

If you are a high school student interested in teaching, there are several questions you need to consider. Below you will find steps that will enable you to begin your journey to teaching.

### Step #1 - Find out if teaching is for you

- Volunteer in several different grade levels or classrooms. You can start with one hour a week!
- Decide what kind of teacher you would like to be (elementary, middle, high school).
- Join the Teachers of Tomorrow club at your school. No club? Start one with friends!
- If possible, visit favorite teachers and ask them questions you may have about teaching.

### Step #2 - Get ready for college\*

- Make sure you are taking courses that will help you attend the college of your choice
- Tests you need to take: ACT, SAT, College Placement Exams
- List the colleges you would like to attend and check the following:
  - Are there teacher recruitment programs at the college that can help pay for tuition, books and tests?
  - What support programs can you apply for? (EOPS, Migrant Programs etc.)
  - What type of teacher credential programs do they offer?
- Obtain college applications and complete them before deadline dates

### Step #3 - Apply for financial aid\*

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Fellowship <http://teacher-fellowship.calstate.edu/>
- Cal Grants [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) or 1-888-224-7268
- Loans [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) or 1-888-224-7268
- University-based programs
- Work-study

*\* See your counselor and/or your career center for more information.*

### Step #4 - Review the "Community College or College Student" sections of this brochure to preview your next steps on the pathway to teaching.

For more information, logon to the CalTeach website or call us.

**[www.calteach.com](http://www.calteach.com)**  
**1-888-CALTEACH (225-8322)**

# Steps to Becoming a Teacher

## *Community College Student*

There are different paths to becoming a teacher as a community college student. Here are some things you should consider as you decide which route to take.

### **Step #1 - Find out if teaching is for you**

- Participate in a teacher recruitment program at your college – Teacher Reading Development Partnership (TRDP) Program, Future Teacher Club, AmeriCorp Program
- Volunteer in different classrooms or grade levels

### **Step #2 - Decide what grade level and subject you wish to teach**

- If you want to teach elementary school, proof of subject matter competency is required (verified by a major in liberal studies, possibly child development, or passage of the MSAT exam). You will need to teach many subjects, thus a “multiple subject” credential is required.
- If you want to teach high school, proof of subject matter competency is required (verified by a major in the subject you wish to teach or passage of the Praxis/SSAT exam). You will need to teach one subject in depth, thus a “single subject” credential is required.

### **Step #3 - Identify what type of credential (licensing) program is best for you**

- Check out “Blended programs” which combine teacher preparation coursework with the courses needed to attain a bachelor’s degree. A credential and a B.A. can be completed in four to four and a half years.
- Many community colleges partner with four-year colleges so that your community courses count towards blended programs.
- Make sure that the courses you are taking articulate with the four-year college you want to attend.
- See the “College Student” section of this brochure for an explanation of other choices.

### **Step #4 - Apply for financial aid**

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)  
[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Cal Grants [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) or 1-888-224-7268
- Loans [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) or 1-888-224-7268
- College-based programs, including those offered by teacher recruitment programs
- Work-study
- AmeriCorps

### **Step #5 - Take the required tests**

You will need to take the CBEST (California Basic Educational Skills Test) and, depending on your credential type, other exams.

For more information, logon to the CalTeach website or call us.

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# Steps to Becoming a Teacher

## College Student

If you're in college and have decided to become a teacher, there are many things you need to do in order to complete the process. Here is a checklist of those items.

### Step #1 - Find out if teaching is for you

- Participate in a teacher recruitment program at your college (Future Teacher Club, AmeriCorp Program)
- Volunteer in several different K-12 classrooms or grade levels

### Step #2 - Decide what grade level and subject to teach

- If you want to teach elementary school, proof of subject matter competency is required (verified by a major in liberal studies, possibly child development, or passage of the MSAT exam). You will need to teach many subjects, thus a "multiple subject" credential is required.
- If you want to teach high school, proof of subject matter competency is required (verified by a major in the subject you wish to teach or passage of the Praxis/SSAT exam). You will need to teach one subject in depth, thus a "single subject" credential is required.

### Step #3 - Decide what type of credential (licensing) program is best for you.

The five major types of programs are:

- Blended - These programs combine teacher preparation coursework with the courses needed

to obtain a bachelor's degree. This is the only credentialing program for individuals without a bachelor's degree.

- Pre-Internship - These programs facilitate a candidate's entry into an internship or other teacher preparation program and assist with subject matter competency.
- Internship - These programs provide participants with classroom experience while they complete course work requirements for a credential.
- Post-Baccalaureate - These programs are two or three semesters long (including student teaching) and sometimes include a master's degree.
- On-line - CalState TEACH is a multiple-subject credential program that delivers the curriculum in a self-study format using on-line, print and CD-ROM materials.

### Step #4 - Take the required tests

You will need to take the CBEST (California Basic Educational Skills Test) and, depending on your credential type, other exams.

### Step #5 - Apply for financial aid if interested

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Cal Grants [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) or 1-888-224-7268
- Loans [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) or 1-888-224-7268
- Governor's Teaching Fellowship <http://teacher-fellowship.calstate.edu/> or 1-866-824-7335
- University-based programs
- Work-study
- America Reads/AmeriCorps

For more information, logon to the CalTeach website or call us.

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# Steps to Becoming a Teacher

## *Career Changer*

If you have been in another career and are considering the teaching profession now, here are some points to consider:

### **Career Changer Without a Bachelor's Degree:**

Please refer to the "College Student" section of this brochure for more information.

### **Career Changer With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher:**

#### **Step #1 - Find out if teaching is for you**

- Volunteer in several different grade levels or classrooms or visit your local school and talk to the principal.

#### **Step #2 - Decide what grade level and subject to teach**

- If you want to teach elementary school, proof of subject matter competency is required (verified by a major in liberal studies, possibly child development, or passage of the MSAT exam). You will need to teach many subjects, thus a "multiple subject" credential is required.
- If you want to teach high school, proof of subject matter competency is required (verified by a major in the subject you wish to teach or passage of the Praxis/SSAT exam). You will need to teach one subject in depth, thus a "single subject" credential is required.

#### **Step #3 - Decide what type of credential (licensing) program is best for you.**

The four major types of credential programs are:

- Pre-Internship - These programs facilitate a candidate's entry into an internship or other teacher preparation program and assist with subject matter competency.
- Internship - These programs provide candidates with classroom responsibilities while they simultaneously complete course work requirements for a credential.
- Post Baccalaureate - These programs are two or three semesters long (including student teaching) and sometimes include a master's degree.
- On-line - CalState TEACH is a multiple-subject credential program that delivers the curriculum in a self-study format using on-line, print and CD-ROM materials.

#### **Step #4 - Take the required tests**

You will need to take the CBEST (California Basic Educational Skills Test) and, depending on your credential type, other exams.

#### **Step #5 - Apply for financial aid if interested**

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Cal Grant T [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) or 1-888-224-7268
- Loans [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) or 1-888-224-7268
- Governor's Teaching Fellowship <http://teacher-fellowship.calstate.edu/> or 1-866-824-7335
- University-based programs

For more information, logon to the CalTeach website or call us.

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# Steps to Becoming a Teacher

## *Foreign Degrees*

If you have a university degree from another country and would like to become a teacher in California, there are several steps you must consider. The following information will help you find out what you need in order to teach in a California classroom.

### **Basic Requirements to Work in California**

- Must be legally eligible to work in California
  - Citizen, resident, or holder of certain types of visas
  - Additional information may be obtained from the school district where employment is being sought.
- Must be proficient in the English language
  - Exams and university courses and/or credential programs are taught in English. English courses are offered by adult schools, community colleges, and school districts

### **If You Do NOT Hold a University Degree**

In order to become a credentialed teacher, you will need a bachelor's degree. Please refer to "College Student" section of this brochure for more information.

### **If You Earned a University Degree in Your Native Country**

#### **Step #1 - Foreign Transcript Evaluation**

- Foreign transcripts must be evaluated by one of the approved organizations listed in the appendix in order to be accepted by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC).
- In all instances, original, official documentation will be required when requesting the evaluation.

#### **Step #2 - Requirements to Teach in California**

- Hold a university degree valid in California
- Pass the CBEST Exam (California Basic Educational Skills Test) For more information [www.cbest.nesinc.com](http://www.cbest.nesinc.com) or 916-928-4001
- Teaching Credential
- What you need to do to receive your credential will depend on the type of credential you are seeking, the amount of teaching experience you had in your native country, and the results of your transcript evaluation. For more information, please log on to CCTC web site at [www.ctc.ca.gov](http://www.ctc.ca.gov) and look in "requirements for teachers prepared outside of California" for the type of credential you are seeking. Or call them at 1-888-921-2682

#### **Step #3 - Apply for Financial Aid if interested**

Citizens and certain non-citizens are eligible for different types of financial aid. Contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) at 1-800-433-3243 or 319-337-5665 for information about eligibility and other student aid topics. Contact the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) at 1-800-357-2099 for information about required documentation.

## APPENDIX

### Agencies Accredited by the Commission for Foreign Transcription Evaluation

#### **Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute**

(310) 275-3530 or

(800) 234-1597

Web site: [www.aceil.com](http://www.aceil.com)

#### **Academic & Professional International Evaluations, Inc.**

(562) 594-6498

#### **American Education Research Corporation**

(626) 339-4404

Web site: [www.aerc-eval.com](http://www.aerc-eval.com)

#### **Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.**

(414) 289-3412

Web site: [www.ece.org](http://www.ece.org)

#### **Educational Records Evaluation Service**

(916) 565-7475

Web site: [www.eres.com](http://www.eres.com)

#### **Institute for International Credentials Evaluations at California State University, Fresno**

(559) 278-7622

#### **International Education Research Foundation, Inc. Credentials Evaluation Service**

(310) 258-9451

Web site: [www.ierf.org](http://www.ierf.org)

#### **World Education Services Application for Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials**

(212) 966-6311

Web site: [www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)